Scientists meet to improve cloud modelling

8 June 2011 - Over 100 world leading scientists have gathered at the Met Office in Exeter to review the latest research in cloud physics, important in the development of both better weather forecasts and improved climate projections.

The underlying theme of this international meeting is to increase understanding of the physical processes associated with clouds and cloud feedbacks in the present climate and in response to climate change.

Much discussion will focus on the increasing use of satellite data to evaluate and improve the representation of clouds in weather and climate models. This is an area in which significant progress has been made in recent years.

Lead Coordinator, Mark Webb, from the Met Office Hadley Centre said: "This meeting is an opportunity for us to share the latest results from both cloud physicists and global climate modellers from the world's leading research centres. It is through close collaboration between these groups that we aim to improve the representation of clouds in our models and ultimately provide better weather and climate predictions."

The meeting brings together scientists participating in three major international collaborative projects in which the Met Office plays a leading role:

- Cloud Feedback Model Intercomparison Project (CFMIP)
- EU-funded EUCLIPSE project
- GEWEX Cloud System Study (GCCS)

All of the world's leading climate centres - in Europe, the US, Japan, Australia and elsewhere - are represented and much of the work presented this week is likely to figure in the next IPCC report, due in 2013.

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